

Application Serial No. 09/831,996
Amendment Dated August 20, 2004
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Abstract

A navigation system for performing and assisting surgical operations having an image database operable with a computer. A tracking device includes a constant-field transmitter operating with a pointer having a magnetic field sensor. The computer via the sensor detects a location of the pointer in either an operative field in which medical procedures are performed, or a control field outside the operative field. Upon, the computer detecting the pointer being in the control field, the computer automatically switches the function of the pointer to allow it to activate or deactivate displayed menus or other control measures.